



ROBERT G. ATKINS

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County of San Diego

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To: San Diego County Citrus Handlers

Dear Citrus Handler:

Over the past four weeks, citrus packers in California, including San Diego County, have voluntarily held lots of fruit for five days before packing and shipping. This allowed our county inspection staff to perform thorough and accurate inspections to prevent freeze damaged fruit from being shipped. After discussion about the value in continuing this practice, it has been decided that as of February 12, 2007, packers will no longer be asked to hold fruit for five days after harvest. As the season progresses, we are requesting your continued assistance and cooperation with the following:

- Packinghouses should continue to inform the county of operating schedules so that inspections can be carried out with minimal disruptions to packing operations.
- Official samples can still be taken from lots of fruit believed to have damage that is not readily apparent at the time of packing and held until such time that a full determination of the quality can be made. This determination will be made within eight days of taking the sample. If the sample fails to meet the minimum quality standards, a Notice of Violation will be issued.

The cooperation received the last few weeks has been greatly appreciated and we thank you for your continued cooperation during this difficult time. Should you have any questions, please call (858) 694.2778.

ROBERT G. ATKINS
Agricultural Commissioner/
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